

## Weekly Eagle News – Middle School

Hello Middle School Community,

On Thursday evening, I had the opportunity to lead devotions at the Board of Trustees meeting and I shared some reflections based on the new book (and podcast), *Practicing the Way* by John Mark Comer. The author challenges his readers to “Be with Jesus, become like him, and do as he did.” Comer uses the model of first century rabbis and disciples and contrasts that model with the reality that most Christians are *not* living as disciples or apprentices of Jesus. The truth is that we are all disciples and apprentices of something or someone, but too often we center our lives on our career, family, wealth, entertainment, pleasure, or any number of things. The challenge for us all is to daily heed Jesus’ call to “come and follow” and to organize our lives around him.

### News and notes:

This Wednesday is Valentine’s Day, and at the middle school, there are no special celebrations or class Valentine exchanges. Please consider how even a seemingly harmless activity like bringing candy or treats for a group of friends can be hurtful for students who are not included. I ask that you reserve any special Valentine activities for outside of the school setting.

Congratulations to all the students who performed in our local Fine Arts Festival on Friday. We have some incredibly talented students! Sometime this week students will receive score sheets and ribbons and will learn if they have advanced to the Regional Festival (February 29). A special shoutout to Mr. Anema for all his hard work leading and organizing this event, and to all the teachers who guided and coached students in their singing, playing, writing, acting, and art.

This Thursday is Grandparents Day! Please review the detailed information below and share the information with any grandparents/grandfriends that will be joining us.

### Grandparents Day Schedule

8:00 - 9:00 am	8th Period Class for Students
8:40ish	Grandparents arrive and <b>park in the Upper School Parking Lot</b> . They can then head to the Eagle’s nest for Chapel (and save a seat for their grandchild). If students are riding to school with grandparents, they can arrive at 8:40.
9:00 - 10:00 am	Grandparents Day Chapel Students will find their grandparents and sit with them for chapel. After chapel, grandparents who would prefer not to stay for the concert will head to the middle school with their grandchild and begin tour/classroom activities.
10:00 - 11:00 am	Concert for Grandparents with performances by bands and select vocal groups. Please make sure grandparents know if their grandchild is performing in the concert. If not, they will head to the middle school with their grandchild.
11:00 - 12:00	Tour Middle School and participate in rotation of classroom activities
12:00 pm	Dismissal for All Students (no sibling pick up at upper or lower school)
12:15 pm	Students still on campus will check in to extended care. (Hot lunch will be available)

### Key Dates:

- This Friday (2/16) is a normal Friday with a 1:30 pm dismissal
- Presidents Day – February 19: NO SCHOOL
- Cornerstone Gala – March 2

- March 4 – Washington DC Trip Meeting – 7 PM in the Eagle’s Nest. All travelers MUST attend (or at least one parent of students traveling on their own).
- 8th Grade Washington DC Trip – March 16-23
- Spring/Easter Break – March 25 – April 1

Have a fantastic week,

Matt Wiers  
MS Principal